

Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER 2017

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 9



INTRODUCING "GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS"

We are all very fortunate to call Canyon Creek home. But, Canyon Creek is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we've become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, "Get to Know Your Neighbors" which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Canyon Creek a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

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Westwood High School	512-464-4000

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Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080

OTHER NUMBERS

Balcones Postal Office	512-331-9802
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DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

View the current issue of *The Canyon Chronicle* on the 1st day of each month at www.peelinc.com

SPECIAL NEEDS FORUM PRESENTS

Guardianship and Alternatives at Age 18

The Special Needs Forum continues its free workshop series designed to educate families who have a loved one with special needs.

The next Special Needs Forum workshop will be held on Thursday September 14, 2017 on the topic; Guardianship and Alternatives at Age 18. What happens legally when your child turns age 18 and becomes a legal adult? What options are available to allow you to continue to help your adult child make the best medical, educational and care decisions? Learn about legal guardianship's, who a guardianship is right for and the various less-restrictive alternatives.

Location: 6200 Bridgepoint Parkway
Building IV, 2nd floor (take right off the elevator and main room will be immediately on the left)
Austin, TX 78730

Date: Thursday September 14, 2017

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Fees: Complimentary

The Special Needs Forum is an educational resource for families who have a loved one with special needs. During the workshops you will socialize with other families, get to know businesses who specialize in helping the special needs community and learn valuable information.

This year's lineup includes a Panel of special education experts, admissions directors from various residential communities and a specialist from the Social Security Administration.

Parents and guardians of children with special needs as well as those who teach and work in the special needs care industry are invited to attend. Each Special Needs Forum workshop includes an informative presentation by a keynote speaker and a question and answer segment.

To register and to view upcoming sessions, visit
specialneedsforum.org.

SEND US YOUR EVENT PICTURES

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to ARTICLES@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.





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Lake Travis Novel Writers

- Christy Esmahan, award-winning author of *The Laptev Virus*, winner of the 2015 National Indie Excellence Award, plus her latest in the series, *The Cobra Effect*;
- Pat Dunlap Evans, author of *To Leave a Memory*, a tender story of family forgiveness, and *Out and In*, a romantic mystery set in Dallas;
- Kate Baray, author of the *Lost Library*, *Spirelli Paranormal Investigations*, and *Vegan Vamp* series;
- Marcia Feldt, award-winning author of *The Oys & Joys*, a baby boomer, secrets never die quietly story;
- Joe Giordano, author of *Birds of Passage*, a coming-of-age Italian immigrant tale, and *Appointment with ISIL*, an Anthony Provati literary thriller;
- Kathleen Hall, author of *If the Moon Had Willow Trees*, a historical novel set in Detroit during the turbulent '60s;
- Nancy Smith, author of *The Slow Kill*, a near-future, sci-fi, father-son tale, and *Tainted Harvest*, a historical novel set in 1692 Salem.


Novels will be available for purchase and signing. No charge to attend.

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MONARCHS AND OE

The protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) infects monarch and queen butterflies. It is an obligate parasite and requires a host to live within and to grow and multiply. It was first discovered in the 1960's infecting monarchs in Florida. Since then, it's been found in monarch populations across the world. It is thought that the parasite has co-evolved with monarchs.

There are three major populations of monarchs in the United States- one east of the Rocky Mountains that winters in Central Mexico and migrate north into the US and Canada; another west of the Rocky mountains that overwinters on the coast of California; the third population are non-migratory and can breed year round in areas such as Florida, Texas and Hawaii. All three populations are infected with OE.

Monarchs infected with OE will have spores wedged between the scales on their body, with the greatest concentration usually occurring on the abdomen. The spores are very small and require a microscope to see.

Female monarchs pass OE spores onto their offspring when they lay eggs. When caterpillars emerge from the egg, they eat the egg shell ingesting the spores. When spores reach the midgut of the insect, they break open and release protozoan parasites. The protozoans move through the gut lining to the epidermis where they reproduce asexually (divides multiple times increasing the number of protozoans). In the butterfly chrysalis stage, the protozoans go through sexual reproduction (again increasing the number of protozoans). Spores form so the emerging butterfly is covered in

spores. Spores can also be scattered onto milkweed from butterflies laying eggs or feeding on nectar. Spores on the milkweed can be consumed by caterpillars as they eat foliage.

Once butterflies are infected, they do not recover. OE does not grow or reproduce on the adults; spores remain dormant until they are ingested by a caterpillar.

Infected pupae have dark blotches 2-3 days before emergence. Adults that are heavily infected often have problems emerging from the chrysalis and some may die before emerging. Others that do emerge may fall to the ground before their wings are expanded leading to them dying quickly. Many infected monarchs look healthy, so the only way to determine infection is by looking for spores.

What can you do? Check monarchs for spores and destroy any you find that are infected. I know this seems harsh, but infected monarchs further spread the protozoa and kill more butterflies in later generations. Cut down milkweed several times per year to get rid of any possible spores that may be on the plants and to encourage new, healthy growth.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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At least 63 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.*

Take our Water Safety Quiz. www.colinshope.org/quiz

September 10: Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon

Colin's Hope will host the annual Kids Tri on Sunday, September 10. The event is limited to 400 athletes, and will close quickly! For more information visit www.colinshope.org

September 24: Colin's Hope Got2Swim

Looking for our annual Got2Swim? Join Colin's Hope and Open Water Planet on Sunday, September 24 for a 10K solo, 2, or 3 person relay on Lake Travis!



Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their year round support!

A special thank you to Peel, Inc. Their support helps us to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water

LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



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TO
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& BATHROOMS
SAFER**



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& HOT TUB
FIRST**



**STAY AWAY
FROM
DRAINS**



**BE SAFER
AT THE
BEACH**



**LEARN CPR
& REFRESH
SKILLS YEARLY**

NATURE WATCH

THE VALUE OF VIPERS

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Throughout human history, fear of snakes has been one of our most common phobias, arising from our learned ability to detect threats to our survival in the wild. While most snake species are relatively harmless to humans, those in the Viper Family can pose a serious danger. Vipers are defined as venomous snakes with large hinged fangs, a broad head, and a stout body with a darker pattern on a lighter background. While vipers are venomous and must be treated with proper respect and caution, it is important to understand that they also exhibit many useful characteristics and are vital to keeping a healthy ecosystem in balance.

Vipers that can be found in Central Texas include the Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*), Broad-banded Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix laticinctus*), and Western Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*). By far the most abundant and widespread viper, the Western Diamond-back

stout-bodied and marked with wide, reddish-brown crossbands that alternate with narrower tan to pale brown crossbands. A heavy-bodied snake with a stubby tail, the Western Cottonmouth is named for the bright-white skin lining its open mouth, but it is also known as 'water moccasin.' It is generally restricted to the woodland borders of rivers such as the Colorado, but can be found in cool, shallow springs a short distance away from main waterways. This snake averages 2 to 3 feet in length, and typically appears almost all black with a bit of brown, but ill-defined grayish-brown crossbands can sometimes be seen, especially on the sides.



Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake

On average, this snake grows between 3 and 4 feet long, and can be found in the wooded hills and plateaus north and west of Austin.

The Broad-banded Copperhead found in our area is an uncommon subspecies in Central Texas, occurring near woodland streams in live oak-juniper forests in the west to Blackland Prairie and Bastrop in the east. Growing 2 to 3 feet long, this snake is

Rattlesnake exhibits a considerable color diversity from chalky gray to dull red, but always displays a row of dark, diamond markings down the middle of its back, and has a prominent black and white banded tail.



Western Cottonmouth

All of these vipers eat rodents, so they are beneficial in keeping rat and mice populations down, which is often the reason they can be found around homes and yards. They will also eat birds found on the ground, as none are very good climbers. As snakes that live in or near water, the copperhead and cottonmouth will also consume amphibians and fish. Vipers can also be prey for other animals such as owls, hawks, and even other snakes. Finally, chemicals found only in viper venoms have a distinct value to humans, as they are used to treat many serious health ailments such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, Parkinsons, and many more. Now that's the value of vipers!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our books, *Nature Watch Austin* and *Nature Watch Big Bend* (both published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



Broad-banded Copperhead

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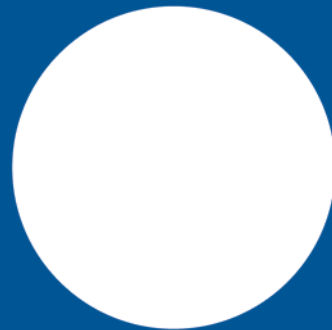
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